

Death Valley National Park

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## **Death Valley** News Release

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## **Badwater Road to Shoshone Finally Opens in Death**

## **Valley National Park**

The Badwater Road to Shoshone, California (Highway 178) will officially re-open Friday morning October 15, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. "After nearly two months we are finally able to re-open the Badwater Road and allow access through the southern half of Death Valley", states park Superintendent J.T. Reynolds. Two flash flood events in the months of August and September buried several miles of the road under tons of rock and dirt. The last storm in September alone covered as much as 11 miles of roadway with debris as deep as 4 feet.

Visitors will be able to drive through the southern half of the park and take in some of the more famous sites along the Badwater Road. Artist Drive road however, was severely damaged and will need to have several miles rebuilt. It is estimated that it will remain closed for 3 to 5 months.

The popular one-mile, one-way hiking trail in Golden Canyon will be open for visitors. For safety reasons all other hiking routes in this area will be closed due to storm damage. We ask that visitors observe all posted closures.

State Highway 190 between Death Valley Junction and Furnace Creek will remain closed until further notice. No commercial thru traffic will be allowed on park roads until Highway 190 is repaired. The rebuilding of the damaged section of Highway 190 will take several months. For more information on current park road conditions, please check the park's web site at <a href="www.nps.gov/deva">www.nps.gov/deva</a> or call the park's information phone line at 760-786-3200.

Additionally, Texas Springs and Sunset Campgrounds at Furnace Creek will also open Friday, October 15, 2004. Water will be available in the restrooms. Work will be ongoing to repair damage to sewer lines in Texas Springs campground.

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